

network which is for organizations or even civic-minded individuals to help disseminate information about recalls and posters to members of society who may not be aware of the recalls.

We all know, Mr. Speaker, education can save lives. Unfortunately, though, certain groups of Americans, such as the elderly, urban and rural low-income families, and some minority groups often don't hear about the safety messages from the government. Certainly, additional outreach is needed.

One of the reasons to sign up for the product e-mail alerts is, you know, Mr. Speaker, there may be some unscrupulous vendors out there who, after a recall, after a recall has been issued, may take up and resell these products in a bargain house somewhere. So we want people to have easy and free access to the information so, obviously, they can make the best decisions.

So please help make your community safer by getting the word out about how to get notification on these product safety recalls.

I'm a member of the Neighborhood Safety Network and will disseminate information through my Web site, www.house.gov/burgess. Information available in linking you to the CPSC Web site is available through that Web site as well. Again, www.house.gov/burgess.

Well, with all the talking I've done on this, I'm sure some people, Mr. Speaker, would ask, is there a downside? Is there a dark side of this that we should consider? And the answer is, of course, yes. You must always be cautious of jumping over the line. We all worry about the encroaching reach and grasp of an ever-expanding Federal Government. We worry about things like federalizing our child's toy sets. But at the same time, the Federal Government does have an important duty to the safety and welfare of all Americans. And the last thing you want is for the Federal Government to have control over every item that you buy. But there's got to be a balancing test. And right now, I'm afraid the balance has tipped too far the other way, and the actual protection for the consumer doesn't exist.

I started out the beginning of my talk talking about recalls, and certainly the summer that we've just gone through has been the summer of recalls. We've had several of the individuals come in and testify in our committee about where the process broke down, where it went wrong. Again, there's a way to avoid the recall after recall after recall that we've witnessed the past several months in products coming in from overseas and from one country in particular; and one way to do that would be for manufacturers to increase the manufacturing that takes place in the United States of America. I can think of no better way to market your products than to say with a little American flag and a little "Made in America" label on that toy.

I mean, we talked about food safety, Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this.

You know, if I walk into a place that sells chicken, for example, and I can buy 1 bucket of chicken where the product might harm me and it costs \$8, and I can buy a different bucket of chicken where the product won't harm me and it costs \$9, I'm going to take the \$9 bucket of chicken, thank you very much. And we hear over and over again, well, consumers don't want to pay higher prices. They want lower price. No, the consumer wants safe products, and if the consumer has to pay a little bit more to ensure that those products are safe, they're willing to do that, because everyone is sick of recall upon recall upon recall. Don't let the summer of recalls become the fall of recalls, become the winter of recalls, become the election year of recalls in 2008. We have it in our power to stop this process. Begin more manufacturing in this country. Manufacturers who step up and do that, I think, will be handsomely rewarded. Food importers who actually stop all of the importation and work with American farmers to buy American products, I think, will be rewarded. I would pay the extra buck for a bucket of chicken that wasn't going to poison me or my family. And most Americans would feel the same way. I would pay the extra buck for a 50-pound bag of dog food that's not going to give my beloved pet kidney failure and take them from me early.

This is a pretty simple concept. If we can assure the safety in this country, let's move the manufacturing, let's move the production, let's move the farming production to where we know we can have the safety and the oversight that's required.

Mr. Speaker, we have to be vigilant in our plight in restoring safety and trust back to the foods we eat and the products that we use. I believe that the legislation introduced, H.R. 3967, the Food Import and Safety Act of 2007, will further this goal, as will the enhanced recall authority by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission that we've also talked about tonight.

Compromising the safety of foods we put on our tables is, frankly, not an option. Compromising consumer products we buy for our families is, frankly, not an option. Compromising the security of Americans can never be an option. Compromising cannot be an option that we take because we lack power. H.R. 3967 gives us back that power, gives us that big red stop button. If something's coming in from overseas and, hey, we see it's wrong, we see it's tainted, stop. Stop. Don't let it even come on our shores. Don't let us be the ones that have to dispose of the stuff. Stop it. Send it back where it came from.

We can no longer sit back and allow harmful products to reach our homes. All Americans, my family included, have the choice to take a stance individually and not buy products with those warning labels on them. The

warning label, remember, says, "Made in China," because those products have proven to be unsafe.

But we could go a little farther than that. Stricter rules are necessary. And at this juncture I would say it's up to Congress to create and enact those rules and earn back the trust of the American people in the process.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You've been very indulgent.

I will yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEVIN (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today after 3 p.m.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CUMMINGS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SNYDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MEEKS of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GOHMERT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, November 6.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, November 6.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, for 5 minutes, October 31.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3678. An act to amend the Internet Tax Freedom Act to extend the moratorium on certain taxes relating to the Internet and to electronic commerce.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles: